

Medicare Rx Update: June 14, 2006

Plans pledge timely payment and willingness to work towards EFT...

To ensure that pharmacy payment processes work as efficiently as possible in Medicare, the Board of Directors of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) issued a new statement of policy saying that:

"...the industry will work with pharmaceutical benefit managers (PBMs) to ensure that payment for clean claims is transmitted via mail or electronic funds transfer at least twice per month and no later than 30 days after the claims are submitted by the pharmacy. In addition, the industry will work with PBMs and the pharmacy community to promote the availability and utilization of EFT."

Note: This generally means that payment for the oldest claim submitted will be transmitted in no more than 30 days, so in a 15 day billing cycle, payment for the last claim received will be transmitted in no more than 15 days from receipt by the plan.

Click here to view the AHIP press release:

<http://www.ahip.org/content/pressrelease.aspx?docid=16688>

Question of the week:

Will beneficiaries be able to obtain early refills on their Part D medications that were lost or misplaced during a declared emergency?

Answer: We expect that Part D plans would guarantee immediate refills of Part D medications to any beneficiary located in an "emergency area" defined as the area in which there has been a Stafford Act or National Emergencies Act declaration and a public health emergency declaration. In addition, we would expect all "refill too soon edits" to be removed beginning with any voluntary or mandatory state or federal evacuations and lasting for the period of the emergency declaration. Additionally, with the possibility of only a limited number of operational pharmacies, limitations on transportation and travel and the disruption of US Mail, we expect plans to allow the beneficiary to obtain the maximum plan extended day supply, if requested and available at time of refill.

This question is available by clicking here:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/downloads/QAEmergencyRefill_05.08.06.pdf

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